

Board of Education Minutes  
October 14, 2015

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Mr. Nero said the North Stonington Education Foundation dinner dance is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Trivia Night is Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. He elaborated. Mr. Carlson had comment.
4. Community Relations – None.
5. Presentations – a. Introduction of New Teachers – Mr. Nero said we had only two new-hires this year. We have two excellent people. He elaborated. He introduced Rebecca Stegeman and gave her background information. Ms. Stegeman spoke. Mr. Nero introduced David Grande and gave his background information. Mr. Grande spoke.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison gave highlights of happenings at the elementary school which included Walk to School Day last week and Math Week is this week. She elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Connecticut Loves to Read Day is on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Harvest Festival is coming up, the garden produced 80 pumpkins, drama club has started, Friday is Disney Trivia night, and after-school and before-school clubs have started. Mrs. St. Germain gave highlights of happenings at the middle/high school including the first parent advisory meeting was tonight, S.A.T. testing began today and SRBI is one of their goals for this year in the middle school. She said they are working closely with LEARN and she elaborated. This will be extended to grade 9. Questions were asked and answered. Parent/teacher conferences are November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Chaney said it is Spirit Week. He said a survey was held last year and the students wanted to be more of a part of the school fabric and he elaborated. He explained the rest of the week's activities. Questions were asked and answered about the bonfire. Mr. Chaney said a presentation on Internet Safety Concepts will be held on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be separate presentations for students and for parents. Mr. Chaney thanked the PTO for sponsoring this event. Mr. Nero had comment regarding professional development. He said a lot of the funding comes from grants, namely from LEARN, and he elaborated.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – September 9, 2015 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2015, meeting.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero read a letter from the Connecticut State Department of Health regarding the approval of the asbestos management plan submitted for the Gymnasium building. Mr. Nero explained the security grant and timelines. He sent a letter to Environmental Services Corporation thanking them for their work to get the project done and on budget. Questions were asked and answered. There was comment.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero thanked Mrs. McCarthy for putting together the reception for the new teachers. He thanked the Board and school community for their thoughts during the time of his father's death. He told the Board that Attorney Littlefield came in and gave a review presentation to the administrators. Model plans for the safe school climate plan will be reviewed to update ours. He spoke of earlier issues with Aramark that were resolved with the new manager. He elaborated. This person was promoted and we will be meeting with the new manager shortly. We are still waiting for the food service RFP from the State. Mr. Nero said he met with Stonington public schools regarding food service and explained. He spoke of having similar RFP's. He had further comment on food service vendors. Mrs. Allen also spoke to Ledyard. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said there are three meetings left this year and he elaborated. We need to have another policy meeting in November.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. LEARN Board of Directors Liaison – Nothing to report.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Carlson said he will be attending their meetings for a while. We should have a representative come to our meetings.

f. Ad Hoc Building Committee – Mr. Mathwich said the committee has met. He said they will be meeting every Monday. He reviewed their meetings. One of the things they asked was to get a feel for how the classrooms are used and he elaborated. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion. They are trying to get the architect in for one of their meetings and he elaborated. Questions were asked and answered.

9. Finance – a. August 2015 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2015.

10. Old Business – a. Tri-Board Update – Mr. Carlson said there has not been another steering committee meeting. He had comment. The next Tri-Board meeting is November 5<sup>th</sup>. There was comment. Mr. Carlson said Mr. Pavlovics may be the Board of Finance representative for the steering committee.

b. Groundskeeper Position Update – Mr. Nero said Jamie Bruce has been hired and hit the ground running. He elaborated. The contractor came in and aerated and seeded. The grubs are back with a vengeance. The new product the state approved is hard to get due to the demand so there will be a delay in the application. He had further comment.

11. New Business – a. None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – There will be a special meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup> instead of the regular meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education